

**TRANSITION INITIATIVES
FOR STABILIZATION**
Quarterly Report
October - December, 2012



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Marking the end of 2012

The last few months of 2012 saw major military developments in Somalia. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) expanded beyond Mogadishu and captured Kismayo, Somalia's second largest port and the last major city held by Al-Shabaab. The National Ethiopian Defence Force also gained new territory and successfully established a presence in Baidoa, Buurdhuubo and Bardheere. The Ethiopians also completed extensive military training to for over 1,300 Somali soldiers in Baidoa. Taking advantage of this new found liberation, the Somali National Government announced it would start establishing regional administrations.

Meanwhile in Puntland, the government officially welcomed the newly appointed Somali Prime Minister, Abdi Faarah Shirdoon whilst continuing to fight piracy along its coast. The Puntland Marine Forces made significant strides and seized 37 sacks of arms imported for Yemen and rescued 22 hostages on board the MV Iceberg 1 vessel, which had been held by pirates for nearly three years. The Puntland army also launched several attacks to demobilise Al-Shabaab in the Golis, El Dibir and Dudun mountains.

In October, a major political breakthrough occurred in Somaliland when its government held peace talks with the Sool, Sanaag and Cayn (SCC) militia group. Previously in conflict over the contested Sool, Sanaag and Cayn region, the peace talks resulted in a pact, which saw the group's disarmament and one of its founders appointed Minister of Resettlement and Rehabilitation.

However, Somaliland's local elections were not so easy. Conflict erupted in November as supporters of the defeated candidates took to the streets and stoned vehicles, burnt tires and blocked main roads. Much of the mayhem has now subsided and the vast majority of the newly elected councils are operating out of their respective offices.



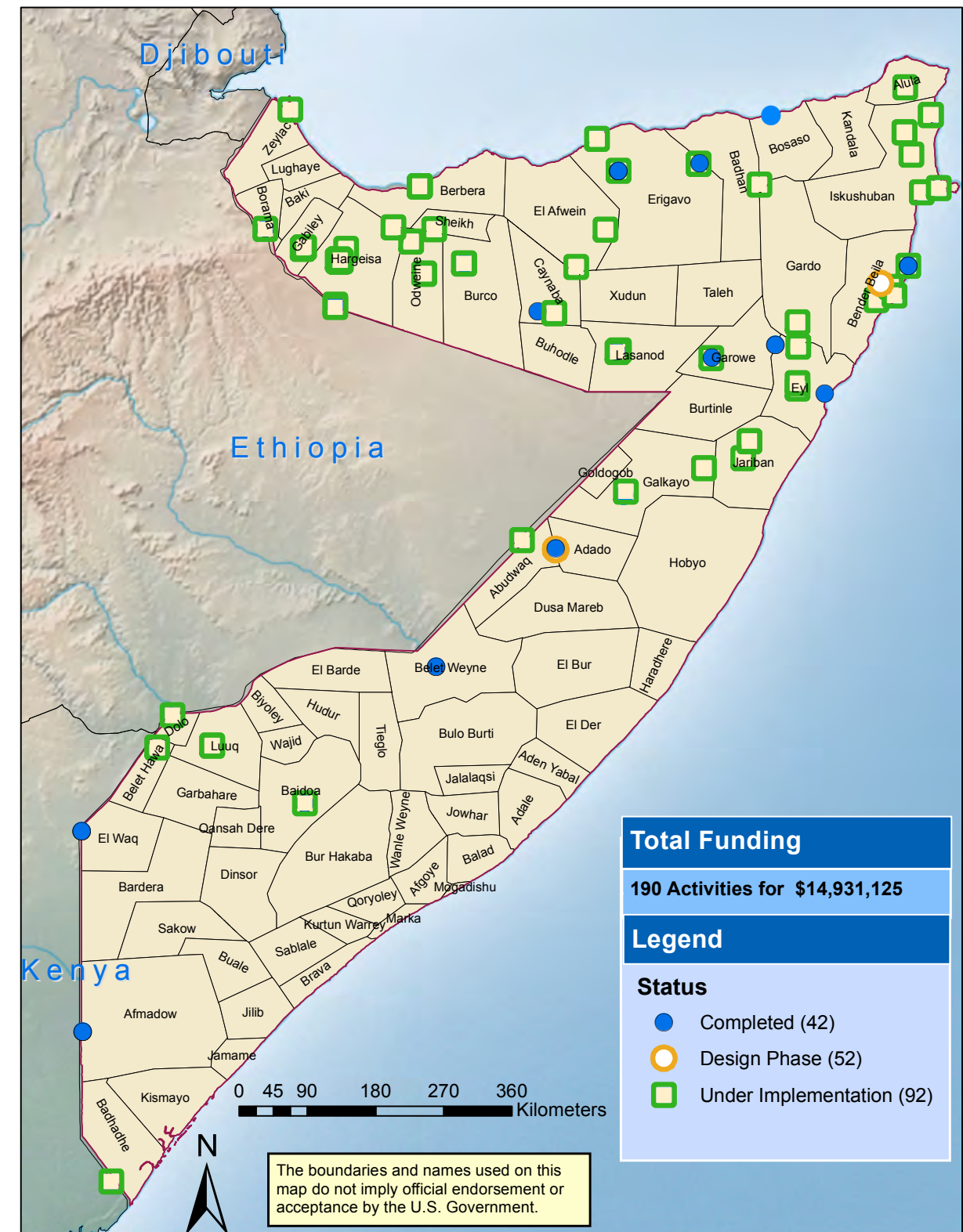
Geographical coverage

Transition Initiatives for Stabilization (TIS) is a quick impact, results driven program promoting peace in Somalia. To ensure lasting stabilization, TIS promotes Somali-ownership and aims to build confidence between government institutions and its citizens by improving public services.

At the end of December 2012, TIS-DAI had 190 grants in implementation worth US\$ 14,931,125, of which nine grants worth US\$ 410,522 are closed and 52 grants worth US\$ 4,775,257 are pending.

Key activities

- **Facilitated** two consensus-building planning sessions for Geriley, Dhobley, Diif and Kolbio and Raskamboni resulting in 21 stabilization activities worth \$1,200,000;
- **Increased** confidence in local authorities by facilitating five celebratory events to promote government service delivery;
- **Awarded** 16 contracts to local vendors through community contracting processes to promote fair and transparent tendering;
- **Strengthened** six local peace committees promoting reconciliation among conflict-affected citizens in Gedo and Lower Juba;
- **Created** local employment opportunities for 447 people.



Results

Program Objective:
1.0 Peace & Security
Program Area:
1.6 Conflict Mitigation & Reconciliation
Program Element:
1.6.1 Conflict Mitigation

“Somalis value dialogue. There is a famous saying: to talk is to reconcile. This venue is providing a healthy space to resolve conflict.”

Elder from Aynabo

Supporting peacemakers

To build the capacity of influential figures in peace building, Somaliland’s Vice Minister of Interior and Puntland’s Director General from the Ministry of Interior were invited to participate in a one-week conflict transformation course in Johannesburg. Sponsored and facilitated by the TIS program, the course equipped participants with the appropriate skills and strategies for dealing with conflict. The participants were part of a multinational group who had experience with peacebuilding in different contexts. Representatives from Somalia, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Malawi, Botswana, Egypt and Syria came together to understand that conflict is not synonymous with violence and strategies to stop conflict escalating into war.

Creating a space for dialogue

Social groups and communities often collide over resources, politics, revenge killings or power struggles. Recognizing an urgent need for conflict resolution and sustainable solutions, many communities and governments prioritized the construction of community halls for peace talks. During this quarter, the TIS program completed three community halls in Aynabo, El Wak and Dhobley.

More than bricks & mortar

A community hall in Aynabo, an ancient town in the disputed Sool region, was completed this quarter. Since the construction was complete in December 2012, the community hall has been used for six major conferences to resolve community feuds and ease political tension. After Somaliland’s local council elections sparked protests and discontent, government representatives, women and young people used the community hall to discuss conflict resolution.

“This venue is providing a healthy space to resolve conflict. Issues arising from election-related tension were discussed and further forums planned,” said elder Abokor Farah Ismail whilst at the community event. The community hall was also used to legitimize the election of Aynabo’s new Mayor and his deputy, which improved government transparency and appeased the community.

To ensure TIS constructions are sustainable and used effectively, the program promotes local Somali ownership. This ensures the TIS program leaves a lasting, tangible contribution, not just bricks and mortar.



Prioritizing the health of displaced populations

Over the last 21 years, many Somalis have moved north into Puntland seeking security and improved living conditions. However, the majority are displaced and living in makeshift camps.

The camps are unsanitary and water-borne diseases result in high infant mortality rates. To improve the health of displaced populations in Garowe, representatives from Puntland’s capital decided to prioritize improving sanitation. This activity will also promote social cohesion and reduce conflict between the local community and migrants. Working with the Puntland Youth Peer and Education Network, 140 drums, 60 wheelbarrows, 150 rakes, 60 shovels and 450 protective gloves were provided to the community for garbage disposal in three displacement camps in Garowe.

Facilitated by TIS and funded by the Ambassador’s Self-Help Fund, the project will benefit 900 people including 90 women who will be employed for waste collection.

Program Objective:
2.0 Governing Justly
& Democratically
Program Area:
2.2 Good Governance
Program Element:
2.2.3 Local Government &
Decentralization

“I have been serving my people from under a tree, but with this new office, we can serve our people better and have a central meeting point.”

District Commissioner, Dollo

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TIS strengthened and building confidence in 31 sub-national government institutions through improved service delivery. With 190 activities in implementation, including the construction of government buildings, markets and roads, TIS is working to promote social cohesion between government institutions and its constituents.

Increasing confidence in government

The TIS program increases confidence in governance by attributing activities to government institutions, rather than USAID or DAI. During this quarter five celebratory events were successfully held to instil confidence and bring communities and governments together. In November, a promotional event was held for the opening of a new road in Hargeisa, and a soccer game celebrating a newly refurbished football stadium in Erigavo was hosted by the local administration. Three events were also held in Aynabo to celebrate a new community hall, market and garbage truck.

HIGHLIGHTS

Construction of a 775m road completed in Hargeisa;

Construction of a community hall and local market finalized in Aynabo; 62 women are currently self-employed as meat and vegetable sellers;

For the first time ever, Mandhera’s local government in Somaliland will operate out of its own premises;

Somaliland National TV and Radio Hargeisa now have five new studios and the Ministry of Information has an extra two rooms;

Four local government offices were completed in Baargaal, a governor’s office was completed in Gabiley and the construction of a regional administration office in Borama was constructed to professionalize government services;

Two administration blocks were handed over to the local government in Mayd and Gar’adag;

The construction of a maternity ward and community hall was completed along the Somali border in El Wak, and the construction of a community hall and school in Dhobley;

Agricultural equipment arrived to farming communities in Bossaso; The construction of a school, women’s center, two clinics, local administration office, and safety barriers to protect residents from falling rocks, was completed in Bandar-Beyla.



3,720 people benefit from improved services in Aynabo

With a large family dependent on her earnings, Fatuma struggles to meet the needs of her family: “I used to sell meat on the street – with no shade. I would often move around all day in search of customers.” Government and community representatives from Aynabo, a town in central Somaliland, chose to prioritize the rehabilitation of a market: “Now I have a place where my customers can visit and my daily sales have increased.”

Aynabo will benefit from an \$80,000 investment in public services to increase confidence in governance. This includes a garbage collection truck to reduce hygiene-related diseases and the construction of a community hall to provide a space for social cohesion. All projects are expected to benefit 3,720 people. To celebrate improved service delivery in the town, an event was organized by the local administration.

To promote the market, the town’s Mayor distributed free baskets, traditional stools and handbags to keep vendors daily sales. The Mayor also gave a speech promising the continuation of services for his constituents: “These new services are a great achievement, and proves our commitment to serve our people.”

Celebrating community services in Erigavo

Whistles, drumbeats and songs filled the air as excited Erigavo residents celebrated the official opening of a new market, football stadium and training center for women on November 25, 2012. Women danced and sung traditional songs in the event that was attended by high profile government officials including the Mayor of Erigavo, the Minister for Civil Aviation and the Vice Minister for Finance.

A football match was also organized. Young players showcased their sporting talent in a match attended by over 400 spectators. Sports kits were provided including T-Shirts, shorts, socks and shin guards and a trophy was awarded to the winning team. After the match, the Vice Minister for Finance addressed the community: “The Government will do its level best to improve the living standards of its people by creating economic opportunities and focusing on youth welfare.”

According to Erigavo Football Club’s coach, the stadium will enhance social integration and reduce crime: “Players and spectators from diverse ethnic groups and backgrounds came together for the match. This stadium is a venue for integration and motivates the youth to pursue a career in sports. It will reduce young people’s susceptibility to crime and drugs which is vital because the youth will give the community strength and ensure lasting stability.”



“Our districts share the same challenges, but we do not talk to each other. This planning session has enabled us to meet our neighbors so now we can share lessons learnt and solve problems together.”

Lower Juba Planning session participant

This quarter, the TIS program facilitated two planning sessions to form consensus, collaborative partnerships and Somali ownership. Worth \$1,200,000, the planning sessions were facilitated for communities in Geriley, Dhobley, Diif and Kolbio and Raskamboni and brought together 73 people, including 26 women, to form consensus on 21 activities. After the planning sessions, TIS staff went back to each district within a month to verify their choices with the wider community; the feedback was positive and implementation will commence in February 2013.

Promoting Ownership & Consensus

Community, government and private sector representatives from five districts along the Somali border designed 18 activities worth \$1 million in October, 2012.

Facilitated by the Transition Initiatives for Stabilization (TIS) program, representatives from Dif, El Wak, Dhobley, Gerillr and Kolbio analyzed causes of conflict in their district and prioritized activities to increase stabilization. Activities included provision of fishing dhows, the construction of water wells to prevent conflict over scarce resources, community halls to empower women in decision-making and administration blocks to professionalize services and increase confidence in local governance.

Collaborative Partnerships

Many roads in Hargeisa are makeshift, small and rocky which hinders trade and transport. The Hargeisa Municipality is responsible for road maintenance, but lacks financial resources to make improvements to the city's road network.

The municipality began constructing a 775km road from Xero Awr to Wadadda, but could only afford to clear the existing road from debris. As a part of the Transitional Initiatives for Stabilization (TIS) program, community, government and private sector representatives from Hargeisa chose to gravel the 150km rough road that will benefit 3,000 residents from Kood Buur district.

An excited trader was impressed with the work: “I have been working here for 16 years. This road is going to make a big difference to my business and everyone else's. More people can access my shop.”

The community and government partnered to jointly invest in the construction of the road. The municipality paid for the aggregate, the tools and labor and the community financially invested in asphalt to ensure the road's longevity: “We have been apart of this road since it began. We are so happy to see the fruits of our labor,” said Mohamed Abdi.



Raskamboni community reaches consensus on stabilization priorities

Instability coupled with under exploited economic resources has left Raskamboni lagging behind in terms of development. Additionally, lack of employment, particularly for the youth, has been attributed to the acute instability in the area. However, since the TFG and later the Somali Federal Government took control of the town, relative peace has prevailed.

In late December, 2012, the TIS team facilitated a planning session in Raskamboni. The session was attended by over 25 participants from diverse social groups and included women, youth, religious leaders, elders and representatives from the local administration. To accommodate the minority non-Somali speaking community, and the women participants, TIS facilitators spoke in both Kiswahili and Somali and invited a woman facilitator whose energizing and inspiring presentation encouraged women to actively engage in the decision making process.

Through consensus, the communities agreed on the utilization of an allocated budget of \$ 200,000 identifying three major priorities which included construction of a primary school, provision of fishing dhows and equipment, and digging of a water pan. The Raskamboni community and local administration believe that these projects will contribute to enhancing stability and community cohesion. “The short term benefit of the school is that it will reduce the number of unemployed teenagers joining extremist groups. The long term benefit is that an investment in education will mean the next generation is prosperous” said Dahabo, women leader.

New jobs boost economy in Bander Beyla

Piracy has dramatically affected Puntland's oldest coastal town, Bandar Beyla. Since piracy began in 1990's, communities have been alienated and businesses deprived of legitimate income. At a time when fishermen struggle for work and piracy is an alluring option, four constructions facilitated by the Transition Initiatives for Stabilization (TIS) program are providing locals with employment. Chosen by government and community representatives, TIS is assisting the construction of a clinic, primary school, women's center and government office in Bandar Beyla to promote confidence in government service delivery and to reduce the appeal of piracy.

The TIS constructions are providing unemployed people, especially the youth, with job opportunities in labor: "When the sea is a no-go zone, people struggle to make a living. This year is different because there are job opportunities," said Abdi, a local laborer. The boost in economy is also felt by small businesses: "Money is being circulated so our daily sales have jumped," says restaurant owner Faiza Mohamed.



Supporting local employment

Local contractors undertake all construction activities and the majority of procurements are tendered locally, unless they cannot be sourced. This feeds the local economy, creates short-term employment, boosts local business and creates healthy, fair competition. This quarter, the TIS program created 447 employment opportunities including the hire of 120 laborers in Balet Hawa, Dollo and Luuq and 25 in Baargaal.

Empowering women

The TIS program is committed to empowering women through inclusivity and this quarter 26 women actively participated in community decision making at planning sessions for Gerile, Elwak, Dhobley, Kolbio and Raskamboni.

Many projects designed by community and government representatives also prioritize the role of women. In Somaliland, the construction of new markets in Las Anod, Aynabo, Badan and Erigavo is providing economic opportunities to many women vendors. In addition, the completion of a women's center in Erigavo and Bandar Beyla has given women a space for dialogue and sociopolitical involvement.

Coordination for improved programming

DAI is ramping up its coordination with other organizations to ensure information sharing and partnership for better programming. DAI's coordination efforts evolved this quarter and led to the establishment of a Community Safety and Peace building Working Group in

Somaliland. The group includes representatives from Mercy Corps, the United Nations Development Program, Danish Refugee Council and Inter-peace, and aims to consolidate and compliment relevant activities.

DAI met with GIZ's focal point for Gedo in December, and provided the German organization with information on TIS initiatives in El Wak, Belet Hawa and Berbera. GIZ plan to partner with TIS and have offered to provide furniture for an administration block in Belet Hawa after a Shabaab attack left \$12,671 worth of damages to the ongoing rehabilitation. This partnership will financially allow TIS to rehabilitate the building without going over budget. GIZ also plans to provide technical assistance to the fishing sector in Berbera.

DAI also liaised with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) who are preparing for implementation in Baidoa, Dollo and Gedo. Information was shared on IRC's past conflict assessments and plans to complement TIS infrastructure investments in Baidoa.

DAI also invited PACT's PEACE II advisors to a TIS planning session for Diff, El Wak, Dhobley, Gerille and Kolbio in November. In light of PACT's extensive experience in conflict mapping, capacity building and facilitating stabilization activities along the Somali-Kenyan border through the USAID funded PEACE II program, DAI has worked in close partnership with them to build on their past successes and learn from their challenges. DAI has utilized conflict analysis assessments by PACT to initiate discussions with planning participants on what stabilization activities can best mitigate conflict.

A high-angle photograph of a group of approximately 20 people standing in a loose circle on a light-colored, patterned paved surface. The group is diverse in age and attire, with some wearing traditional head coverings like hijabs and kufis. They are all looking towards the center of the circle, suggesting a collaborative meeting or training session. The scene is brightly lit, casting long shadows on the ground.

Operations

As TIS covers new territory, new staff are being recruited to ensure quick impact, smooth implementation. This quarter, the Nairobi support office expanded with the recruitment of a Human Resources Officer, Database Manager, Acting Operations Manager, Administration Assistant, Field Coordinator and three Grants Managers. A new Human Resources Manager also joined the Hargeisa team.

Two planning sessions were also facilitated in Malindi and Raskamboni, and three TIS staff and two government counterparts attended conflict transformation training in South Africa. A training session on DAI policy, programmatic objectives, ethics, the grants process and monitoring and evaluation was also held in Hargeisa for new DAI teams in Adado and Baidoa.

Challenges

Gaining consensus

TIS is assisting the facilitation of three bus stations in Hargeisa, however, local businesses, the bus owners association have been very uncooperative, causing unexpected delays. The TIS team met with the new Mayor of Hargeisa and is currently rallying up support to reach an amicable solution.

Political flux

After the local council elections in November, almost all local governments were replaced in Somaliland. Since many government administrations lack recorded institutional memory, this poses the challenge of bringing government counterparts up to speed on the program, its objectives and current progress. The TIS Somaliland team has scheduled meetings with all new political figures to build on the trust and networks garnered with the former administration.

Security

Security is always a serious concern. On October 6, Baidoa's Senior Project Advisor, Mohamud Mohamed Issaq, was injured at his home when an explosive device was denoted. In response, TIS suspended activities at USAID's request. The Baidoa team provided weekly security updates and thankfully the situation has dramatically improved and activities are resuming.

On November 24, Al Shabaab militia armed with grenades invaded Belet Hawa. They targeted the local police station and moved onto a regional office that TIS was rehabilitating. Several gunshots were fired and the roof of the meeting hall was completely damaged. The cost of the damage is \$12, 6761, which overrides the existing budget, so DAI is partnering with another organization to share the cost of completion.

Balancing community priorities

During a planning session for Kolbio, the community prioritized bore holes, however, an initial environmental assessment showed that drilling a bore hole could cause landslides if the water was over-extracted and not replaced. The water could also be contaminated and cause illnesses such as typhoid fever. To mitigate this potential risk, the community was advised to budget for a water pan instead, and DAI will advise that the construction of bore holes will not be an option in future planning sessions.

Lessons learnt

Flexible programming

TIS is adaptive and responds to a localized and ever-changing volatile environment. Utilizing local knowledge and conducting regular security assessments, DAI has learnt to adapt its programming to fit local contexts.

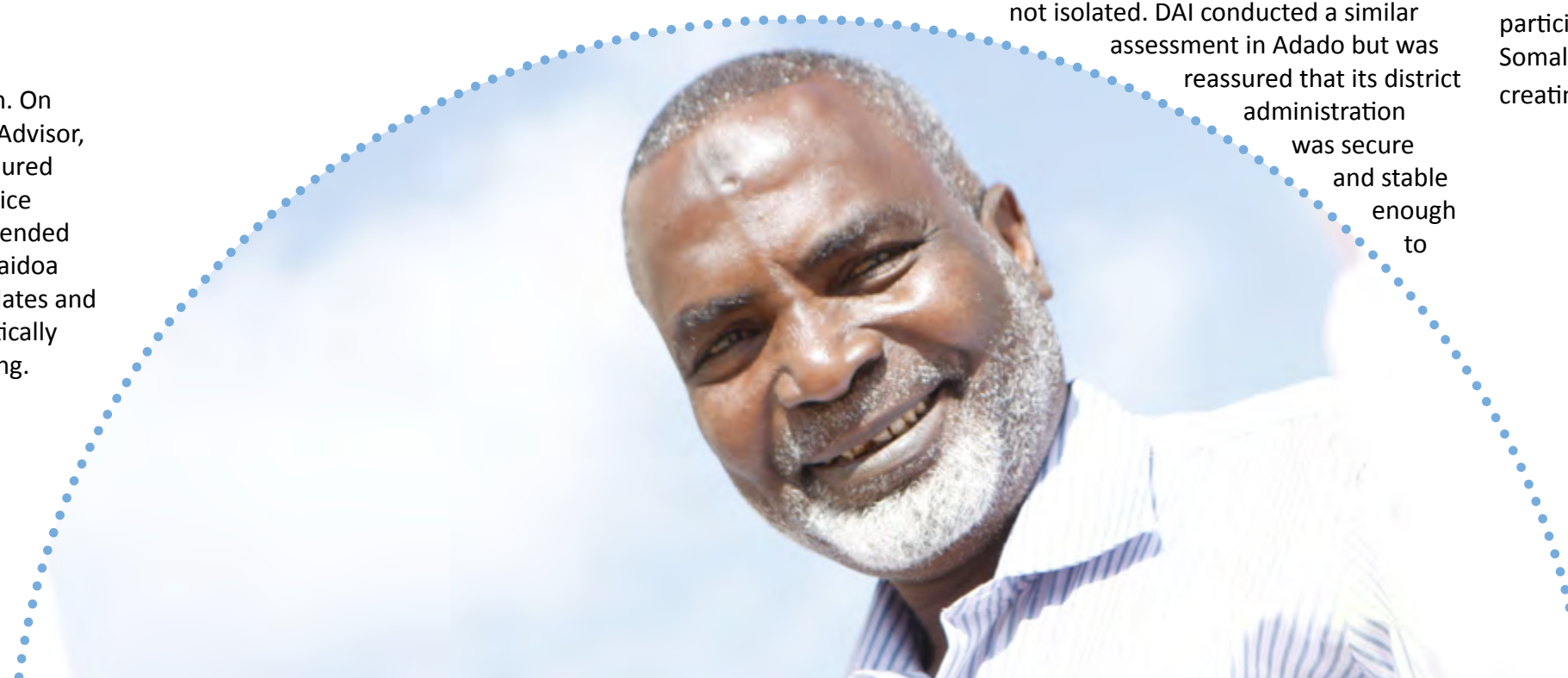
1) DAI intended to embed TIS staff within the Baidoa administration to build its capacity and increase government ownership. However, after conducting several security assessments and stakeholder interviews it was concluded that embedding staff with the district administration could pose a security risk to TIS staff. Responding to these findings, DAI decided to house its staff within a separate compound, but in close proximity to the local administration office. Recognizing the unpredictable nature of Baidoa's security situation, DAI will adopt a low-profile approach in Baidoa and potentially partner with a non-governmental organization to share office space, ensuring TIS staff are not isolated. DAI conducted a similar assessment in Adado but was reassured that its district administration was secure and stable enough to

embed TIS staff. It is due to flexible programming, that this is made possible.

2) In the absence of local government institutions, the TIS program partnered with peace committees along the Somali-Kenyan border for programs implemented in FY2012. Since the first elected Somali government for two decades took office, local administrations are beginning to emerge along the border. Responding to this political shift, TIS is now working with emerging local governments to professionalize and build confidence in governance, as per its core objective. TIS will still engage with peace committees and build on the strong relationships fostered, but in-kind grants will now go to local administrations where possible.

Local planning sessions

In December 2012, the TIS program held one of its first localized planning sessions in Raskamboni. Facilitating planning sessions at a local level encourages wider community participation, reduces suspicion, enhances Somali ownership and reduces the risk of creating "gatekeepers".



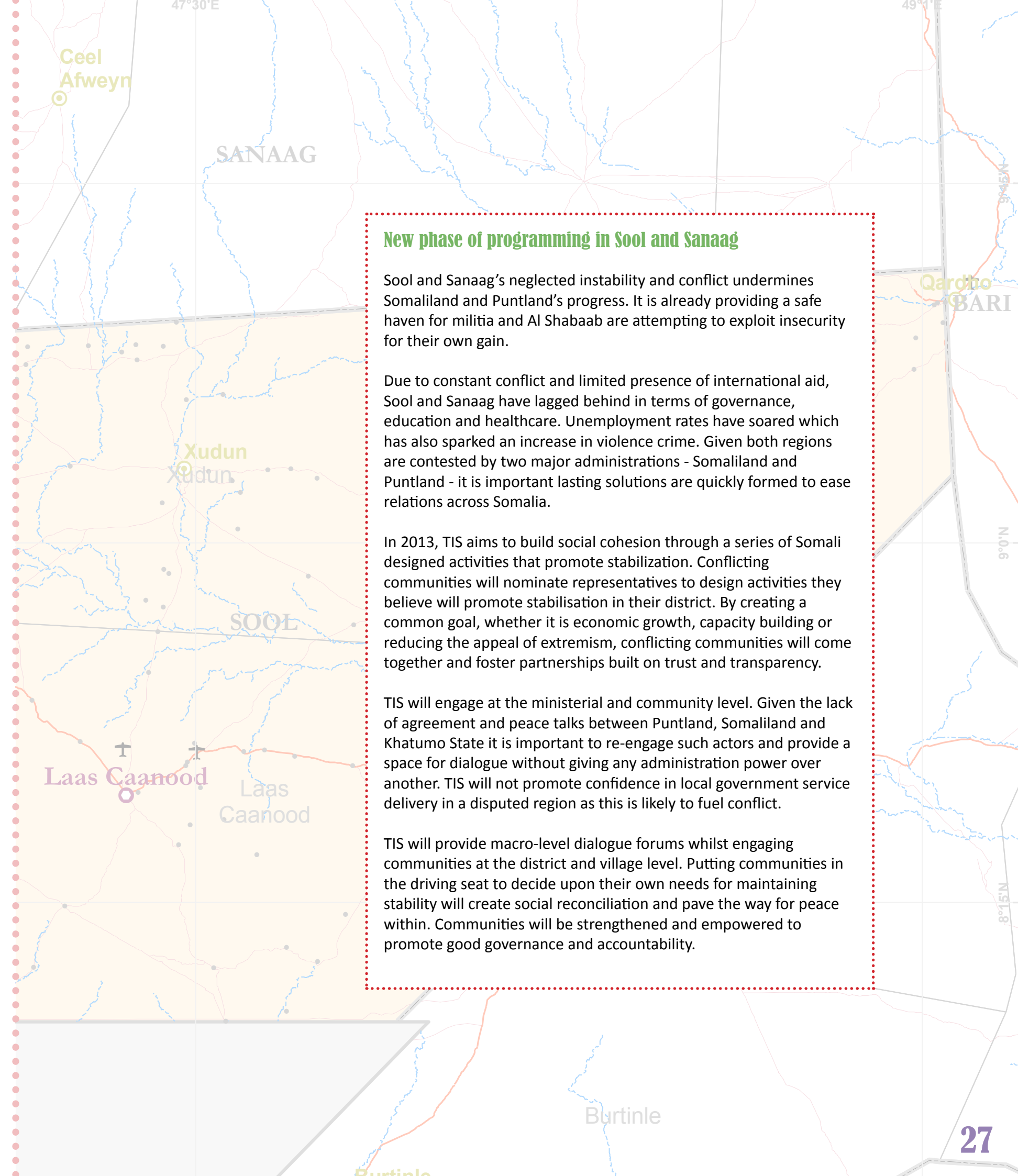
Moving forward

Many activities along the border will be finalized during the next quarter, and community events will take place for an administration block in Dollo, Luuq and Belet Hawo. Proposed activities from planning sessions held in October and December will also start to commence in Dhobley, Geriley, El Wak, Diff, Kolbio and Raskamboni.

Now security has improved in Baidoa, seven activities chosen by government and community representatives will be underway. Staff embedded within the Adado administration will also begin rolling out three activities including a sports center and administration block.

In Puntland, several road constructions to improve connectivity will be completed in Eyl, Balibusle, Jariiban, Garowe, Xaafuun and Galaio. Local offices will also be completed in Baargaal, and secondary and primary schools in Baargaal and Taageer. Livelihood training will also benefit 600 youths in Jariiban, Bander-Bayla and Xaafuun.

As many activities in Somaliland draw to a close, numerous community dialogue events will take place over the next quarter. 20 celebratory events are scheduled, including the celebration of new offices for the Ministry of Information, and a series of peace conferences in Las Anod. The construction of another road and drainage system in Hargeisa will also be conducted during the next quarter.



New phase of programming in Sool and Sanaag

Sool and Sanaag's neglected instability and conflict undermines Somaliland and Puntland's progress. It is already providing a safe haven for militia and Al Shabaab are attempting to exploit insecurity for their own gain.

Due to constant conflict and limited presence of international aid, Sool and Sanaag have lagged behind in terms of governance, education and healthcare. Unemployment rates have soared which has also sparked an increase in violence crime. Given both regions are contested by two major administrations - Somaliland and Puntland - it is important lasting solutions are quickly formed to ease relations across Somalia.

In 2013, TIS aims to build social cohesion through a series of Somali designed activities that promote stabilization. Conflicting communities will nominate representatives to design activities they believe will promote stabilisation in their district. By creating a common goal, whether it is economic growth, capacity building or reducing the appeal of extremism, conflicting communities will come together and foster partnerships built on trust and transparency.

TIS will engage at the ministerial and community level. Given the lack of agreement and peace talks between Puntland, Somaliland and Khatumo State it is important to re-engage such actors and provide a space for dialogue without giving any administration power over another. TIS will not promote confidence in local government service delivery in a disputed region as this is likely to fuel conflict.

TIS will provide macro-level dialogue forums whilst engaging communities at the district and village level. Putting communities in the driving seat to decide upon their own needs for maintaining stability will create social reconciliation and pave the way for peace within. Communities will be strengthened and empowered to promote good governance and accountability.

Programming to commence in Baidoa

Baidoa, Somalia’s third largest city, experienced heavy fighting during Somalia’s civil war. Previously the provisional capital, Baidoa was home to numerous warlords and militia, including Al Shabaab. Whilst the city now enjoys relative peace after Shabaab were ousted in 2011, the city is in major need of rehabilitation and its local administration remains weak.

The Transition Initiatives for Stabilization program mobilized community and government representatives to prioritize local needs and activities are now underway to restore confidence in governance and improve social cohesion in the city.

Community representatives chose to rehabilitate Dr Ayub sports stadium (right). Previously a place to nurture the youth and encourage social integration, the stadium was the pride of Baidoa. However, it quickly became synonymous with violence as Al Shabaab utilized it for public mutilations and executions. The stadium is now dilapidated, rarely visited, and is a permanent reminder of the horror Baidoa endured. “Once this stadium is rehabilitated, no youth shall be lured into extremist groups,” says Baidoa’s Sports Chairman.

The stadium is one of seven projects worth \$1m currently being designed in the city. Other activities chosen by Baidoa representatives include the construction of a peace committee office, a vocational center to create employment opportunities, three markets, a women’s center, provision of sanitation equipment and the construction of government offices.

“These projects will foster social integration, increase political participation and enhance economic independence. They will promote self-reliance and cure economic dependency,” said the District Commissioner while visiting one of the proposed construction sites. Projects in Baidoa will commence during the next quarter.



Indicators

Indicator	2013 Q1 TARGETS		2013 Q1 ACTUALS	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
Number of people participating in USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build mass support for peace and reconciliation	9000	3500	300159	442934
Number of USG supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation among key actors to the conflict	8		19	
Number of sub-national entities receiving USG assistance to improve their performance	8		12	
Number of USG-assisted consensus-building processes resulting in an agreement	2		12	
Number of peace-building structures established or strengthened with USG assistance that engage conflict-affected citizens in peace and/or reconciliation processes	4		5	
Number of persons whose livelihood opportunities are improved as a result of USG-funded workforce development programs	796	316	447	0



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